



UNDERSTANDING MILITARY STRATEGY
A PRIMER

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ORIGIN OF WORD 'STRATEGY'

The word 'Strategy' has originated from the Greek word 'strategia'. It is a word of "military origin" but now it is used all – over especially in the corporate world.

WHAT IS A MILITARY STRATEGY?

Military Strategy is a "plan of coherent actions" to achieve National Military/Defence Objectives in accordance with National Military Policy Directive (ie RM's Op Directive) in support of our National Security Strategy.

APPROACH TO IT'S DEVELOPMENT!

- ✓ By matching/exploring the **“Ways”** and **“Means”** in order to achieve the **“Ends”**.
- ✓ “Ways” are the *“How”* component, “Means” are *“Resources/Tools”* available to us and “Ends” are the *“National Military/Defence Objectives”* to be achieved.
- ✓ Strategy is underpinned by a Doctrine.

**WHAT ARE THE “MEANS/TOOLS”
AVAILABLE TO US ?**

**Diplomacy + Informational + Economic +
Social + Political**

- ✓ Unlike in the past, the IVth Generation War uses all available networks – Political, Economic, Social, etc.

- ✓ Accordingly, all the above Means/Tools of "**Comprehensive National Power**" have to be meshed with the tool of "**Military**" to produce an wholesome "**National Military/Defence Strategy**".

WHAT ARE THE " ENDS" WE ARE SEEKING ?
NATIONAL MILITARY/DEFENCE OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Prevent war through strategic and conventional deterrence across the full spectrum of military conflict, to ensure the defence of India, our National Interests and Sovereignty.
- ✓ Prosecute military operations to defend territorial integrity and ensure a favourable end state during war to achieve stated/implied political objective (s).
- ✓ Provide assistance to ensure Internal Security, when called upon to do so.
- ✓ Be prepared for contingencies at home and abroad to render Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Aid to Civil Authority and International Peacekeeping, when called upon to do so.
- ✓ Enable required degree of self-sufficiency in defence equipment and technology through indigenization to achieve desired degree to technological independence.

PURPOSES OF A STRATEGY

- ✓ ShapEa favourable positive stable, secure and safe Security Environment.
- ✓ Employment of Military during Peace or No War/No Peace.
- ✓ Employment of Military during Conflict.
- ✓ Plans for Force Development/Modernisation.
- ✓ Military Diplomacy viz Peace keeping missions, Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR), Military Operations Other Than War etc.
- ✓ Aid to Civil Power viz Internal Security duties, HADR, etc.

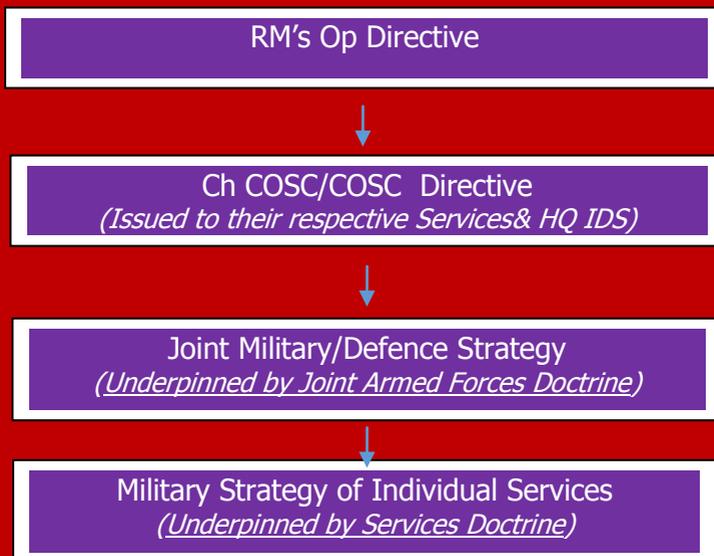
WHAT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF A STRATEGY ?

- ✓ To provide a conceptual framework; which is a purpose of a Doctrine.
- ✓ To bring out any Policy matter. Shortcomings, if any should be settled during policy-making stage itself in consultation with the Policy-makers and Strategy devised accordingly.
- ✓ Strategy is not a theory unlike a Doctrine.

HOW A MILITARY STRATEGY FLOWS?

A "**Military/Defence Strategy**" draws its strength from National Vision, Aim, Interests, Objectives. Policy and Security Strategy at **National Level** (*Note - The term "Security" has wider connotations & "Military/Defence" is one of its sub-components*).

A "**National Military/Defence Strategy**" is a "deliverable" of "RM's Op Directive". The Directive "bridges" the "National Security Strategy" & "Military/Defence Strategy" in tune with the concept that War is a "Whole-of-Nation Effort". Strategy flows as depicted :-



HOW A MILITARY STRATEGY IS DEVELOPED/REVIEWED?

The process takes into consideration -

- ✓ Vision, Aim, Interests, Objectives, Policy and Security Strategy at **National Security Level** which have wider connotations, of which "Military/Defence" is only a one but an all-important domain.
- ✓ Policy/Higher Directives issued by the concerned stakeholders/Ministries who also have a role to play in defence of the Nation viz MoF, MEA, MHA, MoRSTH, etcto their respective Departments to coordinate relevant military issues with the MoD.
- ✓ National Military/Defence Objectives.
- ✓ Experience/Lessons learnt during war/ exercises, etc.
- ✓ Existing Doctrines.
- ✓ Threat Perception.
- ✓ Historical Evidence.
- ✓ Technological Developments.
- ✓ Availability of Resources.
- ✓ Principles of War.
- ✓ An existing "Policy" or "Strategy" may be referred to by the Strategist during formulation/revision of new/existing Strategy.
- ✓ Consideration of Risks, mid-course corrections, etc.

LEVELS OF STRATEGIES

- ✓ **National** – A broad and generic Strategy (unlike the Operational and Tactical levels) since it is only one of the sub-components of “National Security Strategy”. It corresponds to the “NationalStrategic” level of War wherein the Union War Book can be invoked by the Cabinet Committee of Security, if so warranted.

- ✓ **Operational**– This level corresponds to the level of war hovering between “Military Strategic” and “Operational ” levels. It determines the manner of application of Military Power and orchestration of military activities respectively.

- ✓ **Tactical** – It deals with tactics and corresponds to the tactical level of War.

Please Note :- *There is a distinct possibility that levels*

SOME ACTIONS - POST PREPARATION OF JOINT MILITARY & SINGLE SERVICE STRATEGIES

- ✓ Services prepare Long Term Perspective Plans (LTPP).
- ✓ On the basis of LTPP, HQ Integrated Defence Staff facilitates integration of the plans of the three Services and evolves a comprehensive Long Term Integrated Persepctive Plan.
- ✓ The above plans are classified in nature. However, the unclassified portion is published in the form of Technological Perspective Capability Road Map.It is in "open domain".

EFFECTIVENESS OF A STRATEGY

Any Strategy is effective so long it meets the following

- ✓ Must flow from a Policy in the sense it should seek to achieve the Aims of the Political leadership.
- ✓ Must be realistic in application.
- ✓ Should have an unifying idea.
- ✓ Strategy can be long term-term but should not stretch beyond, say a decade or so, lest it becomes speculative.
- ✓ Must provide a "golden bridge " to the future for all the stake-holders.
- ✓ Even while Policy can change with political leadership, the Strategy should be flexible enough to adapt to the new policy direction, if so warranted.
- ✓ Strategies are generally in in "close domain". However, excerpts can be put in "open domain". National Security Strategy, being broad & generic in nature should be in "open domain"and more so in any stable democracy.
- ✓ Reflects the views of all the stake holders.

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